

Of Interest to Every Woman

Edited by Martha Westover

The Great Trials of History

Trial of Duc de Choiseul-Praslin.

No bloodier or more inexcusable murder is recorded in the pages of history than that of the duke of Praslin by her husband, the Duke de Choiseul-Praslin. In a measure it was one of the principal causes that led to the French Revolution of 1848. Every vice of the time was traced to the aristocracy. The people looked upon the nobility as the cause of all their troubles. They watched with suspicion every act of this class which tended to reckless and immoral. The nation was in this state when the Duke of Praslin murdered his wife. She was a woman of most excellent accomplishments. The interest in the trial excited much attention in this country, for the monarch that the government of the Praslin family left Paris shortly after the murder and took up a residence in New York.

The old blood-royal of France flowed in the veins of the Choiseul-Praslin family. The duke who brought disgrace upon the name was born in 1810, and at the age of twenty he married Paris, a daughter of Count St. Basille, a distinguished French general. The duke and duchess had by the union three sons and six daughters.

For some years before the murder grave discord had arisen between the duke and duchess. The duke was a Despot, had gained over the duchess, she objected to the continuance of this in the family, and particularly complained of her estrangement from her affections of her daughters.

At last the government was compelled to quit, but instead of leaving Paris she took up quarters near-by the Praslin home, where she was frequently visited by the duke.

On August 17, 1847, the Praslin family moved from their country residence, where they had been spending the summer, to their superb Paris home in the Rue de Pauloung St. Honoré. After their arrival the duke and his three daughters went to visit the former governess, and upon their return the father retired to his room, about 11 o'clock.

The duchess was also out during the evening and returned to her home and went to her room about 11:30. She dismissed her maid. Her body was discovered the following morning early near the chimney of her room pierced with about forty wounds. The news spread like wildfire, and all Paris was excited. An investigation was instantly begun. Everything proved that the duchess had tried to escape from her assassin. The first blow had been given while she was in bed. The murderer, necessarily covered with blood, must have left traces of it on his way, and that stained way was found to be towards the apartment of her husband. Dregs and marks of blood were visible from the door of the duchess's cabinet to the door of the duke's bed-room.

The duke made a statement on August 18 in which he described how, having heard a noise in the duchess's room, he went there and found her lying by the chimney covered with blood. He claimed that the blood carried between the room of his wife and his own was on account of the blood that he had gotten on himself while

CHARMING HOUSE FROCK



Of flowered silk and plain satin.

coming to the assistance of the duchess.

At the preliminary examination, Charpentier, the duke's valet, and Margaret Leclerc, a domestic, gave damaging testimony against their master. Then came the examination before the Chancellor Pasquier, president of the Chamber of Peers. That official earnestly adjured the duke to relieve his mind by a frank confession of the crime. They also examined most carefully Mlle. Deluzy as to the relations between herself, the duke and the children.

The chancellor asked her if she did not think her actions were most painful to the duchess, she replied: "Quite the reverse. I believe Madame de Praslin was more occupied in her feelings touching his way of managing their household. She was not about her children, whom she scarcely saw, and whom she sent away, when their father was present, in order to be alone with him. When he was no longer there, she voluntarily kept herself at a distance from the children in order that she might use such conduct as a weapon against him in her reproaches touching his way of managing their household. She was not about her children, whom she scarcely saw, and whom she sent away, when their father was present, in order to be alone with him. When he was no longer there, she voluntarily kept herself at a distance from the children in order that she might use such conduct as a weapon against him in her reproaches touching his way of managing their household. She was not about her children, whom she scarcely saw, and whom she sent away, when their father was present, in order to be alone with him. When he was no longer there, she voluntarily kept herself at a distance from the children in order that she might use such conduct as a weapon against him in her reproaches touching his way of managing their household."

DINNERS.

—They are shorter.
—And they are sorer.
—Clear soup is a first course.
—Some prefer the fruit cocktail.
—Fish comes next in this good dinner.
—Roasted leg of lamb is the piece de resistance.
—Potatoes and peas are good vegetables with the lamb.
—Lettuce with plain French dressing is the best for the salad.
—As for dessert, a little fruit is delightful with or without cake.
—A sip of good black coffee and a feast fit for the gods is a memory.

Keeping Flatirons Smooth.

Flatirons can be kept clean and smooth by rubbing them first with a piece of wax tied in a cloth and afterward rubbing them on a paper or cloth strewn with coarse salt.

For That Pungent Smell.

To get rid of the smell of new paint, put a handful of hay into a pailful of water and let it stand in the room overnight.

THE WHITE DRESS.

—It shines down South.
—It is of just two sorts.
—There's the serviceable linen.
—And there's the very sheer organdie.
—The linen is for all sorts of wear.
—Organdies are evening and daytime dress-up.
—The linens are made in as plain a style as possible.
—The organdies are delightfully embroidered in novel ways.
—A deep border of embroidery is around the top of the skirt, it being plain at the foot.
—A colorful wash is looped modestly at the back in the new bustle effect.



Be Beautiful

BRINGING OUT FLESH TINTS

BY ARTHUR MOORE.

There is no beauty like the tint of healthy flesh, and no cosmetic like intelligence and kindness.

Any derangement of the physical system will have its marked effect upon the skin, turning it sallow and dull when it should be of peach-skin hue and live looking. Any derangement of the mental system will also affect the skin, every play of emotion, especially of irritation, registering itself in eruption, coarseness, etc., through an unfavorable capillary circulation.

It is a demonstrable fact that an over-excited imagination such as that caused by reading unhealthful literature or indulging in morbid thoughts, caused by being too much alone or by over-traveling, will bring about large pores and eruptions. The whole face is covered with a network of muscles, nerves and glands, and an unhealthful condition of mind works havoc with these, enlarging the sebaceous glands and impeding the capillary circulation.

To try to stimulate healthy flesh tints by a free use of powder and rouge is foolish. Instead, get at the root of the trouble and tone up the skin. Cleanse the system of waste matter with a dose of castor oil and then keep in condition by repeating the dose each month or every six weeks. Regulate the diet, eating at regular intervals simple foods and those of nutritive value; drink plenty of water to flush the organs; drink a glass of water with half a teaspoonful of salt and a tea-



There's Nothing So Exquisite as Health-Giving Flesh Tints, Says Vivian Martin.

spoonful of lemon juice in it every morning, half an hour before breakfast.

Remember the skin grows dry as the secretions decrease with age, and must be supplied. After cleansing the face thoroughly each night, rub in with gentle firm strokes some almond oil, and in the morning wash off with warm water and soap, rinse in clear water, and then splash on cold water till the skin is a glow. This process is greatly preferable to massage, not only for making the skin smooth and plumping out hollows, but for bringing a lasting flush—a real flesh tint—to the surface.

It may be advisable to put in a tonic cream at night if the tissues are relaxed, and one made from the following formula is excellent:

Three ounces of oil of sweet almonds, two grammes of oil of bitter almonds, two grammes benzoin, two drops essence of lemon. Keep at a light heat over the fire for an hour. Allow to cool and bottle.

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No sense in trying this thing, that thing, for your cough. Carefully, deliberately select the best cough medicine, then stick to it. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for throat and lung troubles.

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RYAN-SMITH

OLD WORLD MONARCHS NO LONGER CELEBRATE

Medieval Observance of All Fools' Day Stopped by Courts of Europe.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

OLD World monarchs have ceased to celebrate All Fools' Day as they used to do in medieval times, and there will be no observance to-day of the first of April as any of the courts of Europe.

Peter the Great of Russia introduced the April Fool custom quite forcibly among his people, by erecting in 1719 an immense pile of wood and timber, garnished with tar and other inflammable materials, on the open square in front of his palace at St. Petersburg, and setting it on fire during the early morning hours of April 1. The flames shot up high in the air, and it looked as if the city were aflame. People came from all sides, some of the peasants traveling miles in their sleighs from the villages in the vicinity of the capital to help in putting out the fire. When finally they reached the seat of the conflagration, they were met by troops formed up round the square. "Sleepheads! Pigs! Swine! Donkeys!" the soldiers shouted. "Fall back by order of the Czar! Fall back!" they yelled. You understand that the Little Father has fooled you! It is the first of April!

Another historic piece of April fooling was the occasion of a bet between Duke Philip of Burgundy and his court fool in 1466. The wager was to see who could first succeed in coaxing the duke on the first of April, he was to have his fool's cap filled with golden ducats, whereas if the duke succeeded in coaxing the fool, the latter was to pay the penalty with his life.

The duke at once set to work to make the fool very drunk, and succeeded in his efforts. In fact, the fool was rendered unconscious. Early on the following morning, soldiers seized him, brought him into a room hung with black, where a mock trial resulted in his being sentenced to death. The block and executioner were brought in. The fool, having been duly shriven by a pseudo priest, had his eyes bandaged, and was forced with his head down on the block. The executioner swung his sword, but at that moment substituted a long sausage, filled with warm blood, for the steel, and struck the fool a terrific blow across the neck, whereupon the sausage-skin burst, the warm blood flowing freely over the head and face of the prostrate victim.

At this moment the duke thought it was time to laugh. So did all those present. But their hilarity stopped short when the fool remained stiff and stark, and apparently lifeless in the position in which he had been placed. "Terror has killed him!" cried the duke. Then he sent for the doctor, who laid out the body for some time before the fool opened his eyes, and laughingly cried, "April fools, all of you! Now, duke, pay me my gold!" When Emperor William, king of Prussia, escaped from Nantes, on an April first in the fifteenth century, disguised as a peasant, a woman recognized him, and told the story in the guardroom, there was a general burst of laughter, and he was congratulated on his discernment in not arresting the peasants. The Governor was also told the story, and he too laughed. But in the midst of his mirth came the official announcement that the royal prisoners had really escaped, and were beyond his reach.

No better illustration can be given of the extraordinary amount of lawlessness prevailing in Russian Poland than a brief description of the peculiar style of architecture of a country house which has just been completed according to the designs of the well-known English architect, Basil Scott, for Count Chlodzinski, head of a lead-

ing family of the old Polish aristocracy, and possessed of considerable wealth.

The country house is perched on the shoulder of a hill, in a wild mountainous country, some leagues from Warsaw, and partakes of the nature of a fortified stronghold. There is no make-believe about it. It is no rich man's fancy for the medieval. The whole neighborhood is infested with bands of robbers, and at any time it may be necessary for the denizens of the chateau to defend it against attack. It is the first residence to which it has been found necessary to apply architectural means of defense since olden times.

The plan of the chateau is roughly square, with a stout rectangular tower at each corner, the center being a spacious courtyard. All the windows facing towards the mountains are quite small, heavily barred, and placed high from the ground level. The only big windows are those looking out on to the big courtyard and those on that facade of the chateau which is constructed on the very edge of a precipice, at the foot of which is a large lake. In fact, it is impregnable from that side.

The roofs of the four-angle towers are steep and high, and are designed in the form of pyramids. The outer walls are extremely thick, and of granite, this making the interior warm and comfortable, as well as being a protection against organized assault. There is but one entrance to the chateau, well protected, and closed at night by a couple of heavy steel gates.

The chateau is fitted up in the interior with every conceivable form of modern luxury, having its own electric light plant, and of the great hall there is a large private theatre, the Poles being extremely fond of theatrical entertainments.

When the large numbers of magnificent country houses and stately chateaux have been taken into consideration, which have been destroyed and plundered by big bands of desperate brigands and by insurgent peasants during the last twenty years in Poland, among them the magnificent country palace of Wroch, belonging to the late Princess Czowis, Hohenzollern, Count Chlodzinski cannot be blamed for endeavoring to furnish the country home of his family with every available means of protection from all possible attack. If I call attention to the matter it is because it is interesting to find a reversion in this twentieth century to the fortified residences of the Middle Ages.

Just before Emperor William left for Constantinople he opened and inaugurated at Berlin the new offices of the Navy Department in the Kronprinz August Strasse, a magnificent building, with more than 1,400 rooms, twenty-five courtyards, seven or eight miles of corridors and liberal accommodations for half a million of books. Until now, the Ministry of Marine, the general staff of the navy and the naval cabinet of the Emperor, have been lodged in ten separate buildings, and they are now all assembled under the same roof.

In this connection it is worth while recalling that when Emperor William succeeded to the throne, the admiralty formed a more subordinate bureau of the War Department, and was under the orders of Lieutenant-General von Caprell, of the army. The new Ministry of Marine Building shows the growth of the importance of the German navy during the past quarter of a century.

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